President.—I want some time to pass my ruling.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—Thank you, Sir.

Mr. C. A. Ouseph.—Is question time over, Sir? There is only one question remaining. That also may be taken up.

President.—Question time is over.

154. Mr. A. B. Salem.—Will the Government be pleased to state the reason or reasons for not answering the above questions at any of the last two sessions of the Council;

(2) will they also be pleased to state the officer or officers concerned in the preparation of the answers to these questions, and when they were sent to the officers, and how long they took to send their replies to the Government to prepare the answers for the Council's use?

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—The question came up only once before in the Meenam session, and it was not possible to collect the necessary materials for furnishing an answer in that session. The Government regret that the details called for in part (2) cannot be furnished.

The production and consumption of paddy.

155. Mr. C. A. Ouseph.—Will the Government be pleased to state;—

(a) the average annual production of paddy in the State;

(b) the average annual consumption of paddy in the State as an article of food;

(c) the period during which the paddy produced in the State will meet the requirements of the people;

(d) the period during which imported rice and paddy have to be depended upon by the people of the State;

(e) to what profession do the importers of the rice and paddy referred to in (d) belong?

Mr. P. Damodara Menon.—

(a) 21 Millions of paras.

(b) 33.6 Millions of paras.

(c) For about seven months.

(d) For about five months.

(e) Trade.

Commerce and Industry.

156. Mr. C. A. Ouseph.—Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(a) whether commerce and industry have played any part in the development of the State during the last 25 years;

(b) what is the part played by commerce and industry in the development of the State during the last 25 years;

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(c) whether the part played by commerce and industry during the last 25 years as mentioned in)b) is in any way less important than the part played by agriculture during the corresponding period ; if so, in what way ;

(d) what part has Government assigned to commerce and industry in the development of the State during the next 25 years ?

Mr. P. Damodara Menon.—(a), (b), (c) and (d). As the questions are vague, it is not possible to furnish any clear answers. The Member is however referred to the *Administration Reports* of the several years which contain such information as is available on the subject.

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